

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00006 051132Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 L-03 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 /045 W

----- 107508

R 050930Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1152

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 0207

BUEHCR/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 0105

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0006

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

KUWAIT POUCH BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EGEN, PFOR, QA

SUBJ: US CONTACTS WITH BOYCOTT AUTHORITIES

REF: STATE 298989, KUWAIT 5209, BAGHDAD 1282

1. AS APPEARS TO BE CASE IN MOST OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES, QATAR'S
BOYCOTT OFFICE HAS LITTLE IF ANY, INFLUENCE ON GOQ DECISIONS
RE IMPLEMENTATION OF BOYCOTT. OFFICE IS HEADED BY MIDDLE LEVEL
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OFFICIAL FROM MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMY WHOSE ROLE IS

ESSENTIALLY ADMINISTRATIVE. AS WE HAVE REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, GOQ TAKES BOYCOTT SERIOUSLY AND OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED EXCEPTIONS TO CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE RULINGS ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN. DECISIONS ON BOYCOTT MATTERS ARE TAKEN BY AMIR HIMSELF AND ANY SUBSTANTIVE USG APPROACH WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE AT THAT LEVEL.

2. WHILE IT IS OUR ASSESSMENT THAT LITTLE IS TO BE GAINED HERE FROM DIRECT CONTACTS WITH BOYCOTT OFFICE, WE WISH TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THIS IS PRACTICAL RATHER THAN POLICY CONSIDERATION. IT APPEARS TO US THAT USG POLICY OF PROHIBITING CONTACTS WITH LOCAL BOYCOTT OFFICES MAY BE BASED ON ASSUMPTION THAT OFFICES ARE MERELY EXTENSIONS OF CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE RATHER THAN INTEGRAL PARTS OF HOST GOVERNMENTS THEMSELVES. QATAR OBSERVED PARTIAL BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL BEFORE CONTRAL OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED AND OFFICE HERE IS FULLY INTEGRATED DIVISION OF MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMY. IN OUR OPINION, REFUSAL ON GROUNDS OF POLICY TO HAVE ANY DEALINGS WITH LOCAL BOYCOTT OFFICES IS LOGICALLY THE SAME AS SAYING WE WILL HAVE NO CONTACTS WITH MINISTRIES OF PETROLEUM IN OPEC COUNTRIES BECAUSE WE ARE AT ODDS WITH OPEC PRICING POLICIES. WE SUPPORT POSITION IN MANAMA 1451 THAT POSTS SHOULD BE FREE TO DECIDE ON COUNTRY BY COUNTRY BASIS WHPHH OFFICIAL ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE CONTACTED ON BOYCOTT ISSUES. IN CASE OF COUNTRIES SUCH AS QATAR WHERE IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT ANY SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS COULD BE ATTAINED BY APPROACH TO BOYCOTT OFFICE, IT MIGHT BE TO OUR BENEFIT TO MAKE OCCASIONAL CONTACTS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES; I.E., TO DETERMINE ON FIRST HAND BASIS HOW BOYCOTT IS STRUCTURED AND IMPLEMENTED IN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES. IT IS PROBABLY TRUE THAT BOYCOTTS SELDOM ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS. WE BELIEVE THE SAME CAN BE SAID ABOUT BOYCOTTS OF BOYCOTTS AND SUBMIT THAT IT IS TIME TO INCREASE OUR AWARENESS OF AND EFFORTS TO MITIGATE BOYCOTT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAR, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, INVASIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DOHA00006
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: 1
Film Number: D750004-0611
From: DOHA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750178/aaaacqgo.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <30 JUL 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : REQUEST FOR TEXT OF SECRETARY'S INTERVIEW AND REMARKS ON POSSIBILITY OF US MILITARY ACTION
TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, ENRG, XF, US, QA, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006